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Note

1. The discussions in this article can apply to either set of MI definitions. The majority of people use the latter set of MI definitions. I still use the original MI equations for some applications. If used to track software over its life, it is important not to change equations mid-stream. There are other variants of the MI equations that organizations have tailored for specific interests (both the 3- and 4-metric versions). The discussion in the paper generally applies to most of these as well.

About the Author

Kurt D. Welker is an advisory engineer at the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory with 14 years experience in software development, systems integration, and software measurement. He is a technical lead on the Electronic Combat System Integration Project performing reengineering, integration, and software maintenance on several electronic combat analysis models for the Air Force Information Warfare Center that simulate radar detection, weapon lethality envelopes, electronic counter-measures, reconnaissance, passive detection, and communications jamming. He functioned as the principle investigator for the development of a general-purpose lexical scanner/parser tool called the Data Stream Analyzer that provides data format integration. He also functioned as the principle investigator on a software measurement/process-improvement research initiative. He has been using MI to assess and track software maintainability for about eight years. Welker has a bachelor's of science degree in computer science from Brigham Young University and a master's of science degree in computer science from the University of Idaho.

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Letter to the Editor

Dear CROSSTALK,

I was reading the new June 2001 issue Vol. 14 No. 6 yesterday and was nonplussed to read in three different places (From the Publisher, the abstract to the first article *Extending UML to Enable the Definition and Design of Real-Time Embedded Systems*, and the text of *The Quality of Requirements in Extreme Programming*), references to Universal Markup Language (UML).

All three of the contexts refer to the Unified Modeling Language created by Booch, Rumbaugh, and Jacobson of Rational Software Corporation. There is no real-time software design methodology called Universal Markup Language to my knowledge.

Thanks for an excellent publication.

Regards,
Karl Woelfer
Seattle, WA

Coming Events

August 27-30
Software Test Automation Conference
www.sqe.com/testautomation

August 27-31
5th IEEE International Symposium on Requirements Engineering
www.re01.org

Sept. 10-14
Joint 8th European Software Engineering Conference and 9th ACM SIGSOFT International Symposium on the Foundations of Software Engineering
www.esec.ocg.at

Oct. 15-18
16th Annual SEI Symposium
www.asq.org/ed/conferences

Oct. 15-19
21st International Conference on Software Testing and EXPO 2001
www.qaiusa.com/conferences

Oct. 22-24
11th International Conference On Software Quality
www.asq.org/ed/conferences

Oct. 29-Nov. 2
Software Testing Analysis and Review
www.sqe.com/starwest

Nov. 4-7
Amplifying Your Effectiveness (AYE)
www.ayeconference.com

Feb. 4-6, 2002
International Conference on COTS-Based Software Systems (ICCBSS) At the Heart of the Revolution
www.iccbss.org

April 28 - May 3, 2002
STC 2002
"Forging the Future of Defense Through Technology"
www.stc-online.org